

**Amendments to the claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

**Listing of claims:**

1-47 (Cancelled)

48. (New) A method comprising:

forming a network based on one or more of a plurality of modules, wherein the plurality of modules comprises at least one of a plurality of conduit modules, at least one of a plurality of line system modules, at least one of a plurality of virtual channel modules, at least one of a plurality of megabit per second modules, and at least one of a plurality of logical connection modules,

wherein the at least one of the plurality of line system modules includes at least one of a plurality of links and at least one of a plurality of nodes, wherein the at least one of the plurality of links has a route in the at least one of the plurality of conduit modules, wherein the at least one of the plurality of nodes is included in the at least one of the plurality of conduit modules.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein each of the one or more of the plurality of modules are organized into a hierarchy.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the one or more of the plurality of modules are organized into a hierarchy, wherein each of the one or more of the plurality of modules uses a routing resource and a capacity resource of another, higher layer.

51. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the one or more of the plurality of modules are organized into a hierarchy, wherein each of the one or more of the plurality of modules provides a routing resource and a capacity resource to another, lower layer.

52. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the at least one of the plurality of virtual channels forms a synchronous digital hierarchy link in the at least one of a plurality of virtual channels.

53. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the at least one of the plurality of megabit per second modules is defined as a 2 megabit per second module.

54. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:  
selecting one or more of the plurality of modules to form the network.

55. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:  
controlling, based on the one or more of the plurality of modules, to form the network.

56. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:  
modeling, based on the one or more of the plurality of modules, the network.

57. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein one or more of the plurality of modules comprises: an asynchronous transfer mode link module, an asynchronous transfer mode virtual path module, an asynchronous transfer mode virtual circuit

module, an internet protocol module, a wavelength-division multiplexing module, and a cellular module.